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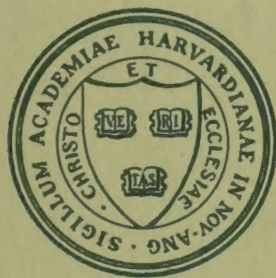
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WALTER FAXON

October 18, 1921.

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A GUIDE TO THE ARNOLD ARBORETUM



Pf. 31-33. Birds in the Arboretum.
By Charles B. Faxon.

1911

HOW TO REACH THE ARNOLD ARBORETUM

THE ARBORETUM MAY BE REACHED FROM BOSTON BY THE JAMAICA PLAIN ELECTRIC CARS THROUGH THE SUBWAY, HUNTINGTON AVENUE, COLUMBUS AVENUE, AND ROXBURY CROSSING, AND THROUGH THE SUBWAY, HUNTINGTON AVENUE AND SOUTH HUNTINGTON AVENUE. THE CARS SHOULD BE LEFT AT THE CORNER OF CENTRE AND ELIOT STREETS, JAMAICA PLAIN, FIVE MINUTES' WALK FROM THE JAMAICA PLAIN GATE. IT MAY BE REACHED BY WAY OF THE WASHINGTON STREET TUNNEL AND ELEVATED RAILROAD TO FOREST HILLS, AND BY THE NEW YORK, NEW HAVEN AND HARTFORD RAILROAD TO FOREST HILLS FROM THE SOUTH OR BACK BAY STATIONS. (SOUTH STATION, 16 MINUTES — BACK BAY STATION, 12 MINUTES. TRAINS EACH WAY EVERY FEW MINUTES.) THE FOREST HILLS GATE OF THE ARBORETUM IS FIVE MINUTES' WALK FROM THE STATION OF THE ELEVATED RAILROAD AND THREE MINUTES' WALK FROM THE STATION OF THE N. Y., N. H. & H. R. R. AT FOREST HILLS.

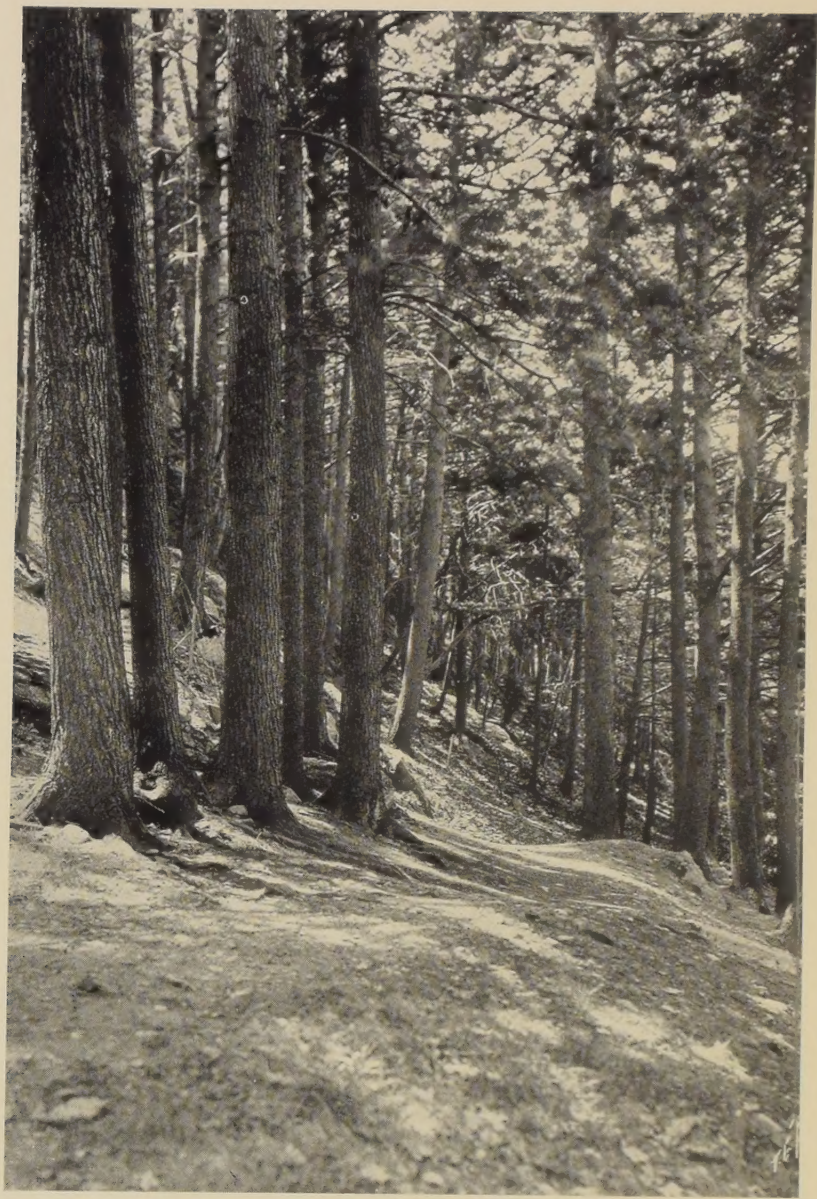
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AT THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING OF THE ARBORETUM.

FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY, 300 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, BOSTON.

AT THE OLD CORNER BOOKSTORE, 29 BROMFIELD STREET, BOSTON.

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HEMLOCK HILL

A GUIDE TO THE
ARNOLD ARBORETUM

BY CHARLES S. SARGENT
DIRECTOR OF THE ARNOLD ARBORETUM



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BIRDS IN THE ARBORETUM

BY CHARLES E. FAXON

CONTINUOUS observations of the bird-life in the Arboretum have been made since its establishment. The varied natural features of the place, combined with favorable conditions as regards food supply and protection, have proved, as might be expected, very attractive to the various native birds of the region, as their abundance testifies. Upwards of fifty species have been noted as breeding here during the last twenty years, and few of these have as yet forsaken us.

The drainage of swamp land has driven away such water-loving birds as the Red-winged Blackbird and Spotted Sandpiper, and the early and frequent cutting of grass on the uplands has had the same effect on the Meadowlark and Bobolink. The Barn Swallow and Cliff Swallow, formerly common, have also disappeared here as elsewhere within the city limits. The necessarily persistent warfare on the Gypsy Moth, Elm-leaf Beetle and other insect pests by spraying, occurring as it does at the height of the nesting season, has doubtless had its effect in diminishing the abundance of some species. Yet notwithstanding this, and in spite of the rapid increase of urban conditions in the surrounding country, the bird population of the Arboretum holds its own surprisingly well thus far; and, if we include migrants and winter visitants, probably a hundred species can be found here in the course of the year.

The list includes many of our most beautiful birds of song or plumage, such as the Song Thrush, Veery, Rose-breasted

Grosbeak, Thrasher, Oriole, Bluebird, Wood Pewee, Indigo Bird, Redstart and several Warblers. These as yet show few signs of diminution. The Ruffed Grouse still persists, and the flock of Quails well maintains its numbers from year to year. The Mongolian Pheasant, a recent introduction, is apparently increasing. In the latter part of summer the little ponds are frequently visited by the Green Heron, the Night Heron and sometimes even by the Great Blue Heron, and several species of wild ducks occasionally alight for a short stay.

Of the rarer birds of eastern Massachusetts the Yellow-breasted Chat and Brewster's Warbler have nested here for two or three successive seasons, and a pair of Carolina Wrens took up their abode near the Administration Building for several weeks during the latter part of a recent summer.

The abundance of Flowering Crabs, Barberries and other shrubs holding their fruit through the winter makes the Arboretum a favorite resort for both winter residents and visitors. For several years a Mockingbird has been present almost every winter, feeding mostly on the fruit of the Chinese Flowering Crab, and disappearing as spring advanced. The Song Sparrow and Tree Sparrow winter in abundance, and the White-throated Sparrow and Mistle Warbler sparingly. The Butcherbird is unfailing. In those winters when the northern birds visit this region the Arboretum offers them peculiar attractions. The Pine Grosbeaks and Crossbills find a rich feast in the fruit of the Crabs, Barberries and Viburnums. The Birches afford abundant food for the Redpolls, and the Hemlocks for the Siskins. Flocks of Snow Buntings appear occasionally, driven in from the coast by easterly storms to stay only for a few days. In the spring flocks of

Titlarks are attracted by the burnt-over patches in the North Meadow, and the Water Thrush at that season regularly visits the margin of the brook near by.

Among birds of prey the Red-shouldered Hawk formerly wintered here regularly, mobbed constantly by the Crows, and Cooper's Hawk and the Sharp-shinned Hawk are more or less frequent. The Screech Owl is a permanent resident.

Thus it will be seen that the Arboretum offers an interesting field for the study of our birds.

